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Message Text

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ACTION L-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 EB-08 AID-05 CIAE-00
COME-00 FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-06 TRSE-00
XMB-02 OPIC-03 SP-02 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 NSC-05
SS-15 STR-06 CEA-01 SEC-01 IGA-02 H-01 PA-01
PRS-01 JUSE-00 FTC-01 HEW-04 /109 W
----------036650 180135Z /72
R 171633Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2100
INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 00823

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ETRD, EINV, UK, US
SUBJECT: UK VIEWS ON ILLICIT PAYMENTS AND
EXTRATERRITORIALITY

REF: (A) PARIS 832; (B) LONDON 690 (NOTAL)

1. ASST. SECRETARY OF COMMERCE FRANK WEIL AND EMBASSY OFFICERS DISCUSSED ILLICIT PAYMENTS PROBLEM WITH TRADE MINISTER EDMUND DELL DURING WEIL'S CALL JANUARY 16. DELL'S COMMENT BEGAN WITH EXPRESSION OF CONCERN ABOUT POSSIBLE IMPLICATIONS OF EXTRATERRITORIAL APPLICATION OF U.S. LAW. DELL SAID THE EXTRATERRITORIAL ELEMENT IN U.S. LAW IS A CONTINUING AND INCREASING SOURCE OF FRICTION BETWEEN BRITAIN AND THE U.S. HE DESCRIBED THE GENERAL SITUATION AS "GETTING WORSE," BUT DID EXPRESS APPRECIATION THAT THE NEW ANTI-BOYCOTT REGULATIONS LIMIT TERRITORIAL EFFECTS ON U.S. SUBSIDIARIES; SPECIFICALLY, THAT A U.S. SUBSIDIARY ABROAD WOULD GENERALLY HAVE TO BE ENGAGED IN "U.S. COMMERCE" BEFORE THE NEW ANTI-BOYCOTT REGULATIONS AFFECT ITS OPERATIONS.
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2. ON THE ISSUE OF BRIBERY, DELL MADE THE SAME GENERAL POINTS ON EXTRATERRITORIALITY, BUT SAID THE UK WOULD LIKE TO SEE SOMETHING DONE INTERNATIONALLY ON THIS PROBLEM. HE SEEMED TO US TO BE MORE POSITIVE TOWARD SOME INTERNATIONAL ACTION TO CONTROL ILLICIT PAYMENTS THAN HIS PERMANENT SECRETARY LEO PLIATZKY (REFERENCE A),

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BUT MAINTAINED PLIATZKY'S CENTRAL REQUIREMENT THAT ANY INTERNATIONAL ACTION WOULD HAVE TO BE "COMPLETELY EFFECTIVE" BEFORE BRITAIN WOULD CONSIDER PARTICIPATING IN SUCH AN ARRANGEMENT. HE SAID HE ACCEPTS THAT BRITISH PUBLIC OPINION FAVORING ACTION AGAINST BRIBERY IS A FACTOR THE GOVERNMENT NEEDS TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT IN CONSIDERING HOW FAR IT MIGHT GO TOWARD INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION.

3. WE ALSO TOOK ADVANTAGE OF A LUNCHEON MEETING JANUARY 16 WITH THE NEW PRESIDENT OF THE CONFEDERATION OF BRITISH INDUSTRY, JOHN GREENBOROUGH, TO RAISE THE ILLICIT PAYMENTS PROBLEM. THE CBI VIEWS ARE SIMILAR TO THOSE EXPRESSED BY DELL.

4. THIS MESSAGE PREPARED AFTER WEIL'S DEPARTURE.

BREWSTER

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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